REMARKS

Original claims 1-5 were examined and rejected under 35 USC § 102 as anticipated by USP 6,415,341 to Fry. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Fry '341 in view of USP 5,742,845 to Wagner.

Fig. 1 was objected to for not including a register, referred to in the Specification at element 160. Applicants submit herewith for approval proposed revised Fig. 1 in which a register 160 is added in red ink and in which reference number 110 is added in red ink with respect to the PIN pad in the upper left corner of the figure. Also submitted for approval is a proposed revised Fig. 2 in which register 160 is added (support for which is found in Fig. 1 and in the Specification including original claim 1).

Without prejudice or disclaimer, applicants have cancelled claims 1-5 and have added new claims 6-11. Claims 6-11 are pending.

CLAIMS 6-11 ARE PENTABLE OVER THE ART OF RECORD

As noted in the Specification, e.g., page 5 lines 29-31, spanning page 6, lines 1-2, the present invention enables devices such as POS register 260 to maintain state regarding a service or transaction, such that state information maintained by one device, e.g., a register, may be duplicative, overlapping, or disjoint from the state information maintained by another device.

As such it will be appreciated that in the present invention devices such as a register device, a peripheral device, can functionally, in use, uncover services, which services can overlap (e.g., the same service can be uncovered by a register device and by a peripheral device). This flexibility permits the present invention to functional operate as a federation of services whereby services from different devices can be used to provide essentially new services. Within a system or network of such devices, each device can be an application or a program or a controller.

By the same token, applicants' protocol converter device is also a service that could be an application of a device, and may itself have at least one protocol converter, which protocol converter(s) can reside in a register or other device. As such, a federation can be formed from such multiple distributed protocol converters. It will

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be appreciated that applicants' protocol converter is implemented at the application layer.

By contrast, the primary Fry '341 reference at best can convert only certain basic transport layer protocols. Device services with which Fry '341 can attempt to work are restricted to certain corresponding devices, without the cross-over type flexibility present in the invention defined by pending claim 6. That Wagner '845 discloses use of TCP/IP format protocol still does not make an invention combining (assuming combination were even feasible) Fry's transport layer protocol system with Wager's TCP/IP an invention rendering claim 6 unpatentable. Claims 7-11 depend from and further limit claim 6 and are also patentable over Fry '341 and/or Wagner '845.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that proposed revised Fig. 1 should be approved, and that pending claims 6-11 are patentable over the art of record and should be passed to allowance.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, including extension fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Our Order No. 467766-00049 [A-68701/MAK]).

Respectfully submitted,

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